United Nations A/HRC/37/NGO/182

General Assembly

Distr.: General
28 February 2018

English only

Human Rights Council
Thirty-seventh session
26 February-23 March 2018
Agenda item 6
Universal periodic review

Written statement* submitted by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement, which is hereby circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 February 2018]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

GE.18-03105(E)
1803105

Please recycle

Statement by the Japan Federation of Bar Associations for the UPR outcome of Japan

The Japan Federation of Bar Associations (JFBA) welcomes the positive approach that the Government of Japan took for the third Universal Periodic Review of Japan, by responding interactively to questions raised by each member State, and by including the officers of the relevant ministries in its delegations both at the Working Group session and at the adoption of the final outcomes at the Council.

The JFBA also commends that the Government of Japan proactively made recommendations to other member States during the 3rd cycle of the UPR, and thereby contributed to the development of the UPR system.

With regard to national consultation, there are rooms for improvement including that the Government's report did not reflect the results of the consultation with civil society, and that the Government's report was not disclosed until one month before the Working Group session.

Having said that, some development of the national dialogue was observed since the Working Group session. In February 2018, the JFBA convened a consultation forum on the recommendations made, in which 13 members of the Parliament (Diet) participated, both from ruling parties and opposition parties. On that occasion, substantive dialogue was held among the JFBA, members of the Diet, and the relevant ministries on the acceptance of recommendations and their implementation.

Japan will host Olympics and Paralympics as well as the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in 2020. Thus, external expectations have been surging toward the improvement of human rights remedies, including through ratification of the Optional Protocols for providing an individual communications system, and the establishment of a national human rights institution. Concurring with business sectors' efforts toward responsible business conduct and investments, internal incentives have also been enhanced to demonstrate human rights developments toward the international community.

Against this backdrop, the JFBA asks the Government of Japan to implement diligently the recommendations accepted, in particular on discrimination, the area to which many recommendations were made, by enacting legislation and by strengthening policy measures. The JFBA will continue to monitor its progress in order to ensure the implementation, and to improve access to remedies.

Regrettably, the Government did not accept recommendations on some important issues including the introduction of the moratorium on death penalty or the abolition of daiyo-kangoku/substitute prison, even though the same recommendations were made at the 1st UPR which took place 10 years ago.

For these issues, with the cooperation of the embassies in Japan, and the Delegation of the European Union to Japan, the JFBA will continue to ask the Government to seriously consider the recommendations in a concrete and time bound manner.